



# COVID-19 Guidance for Homeless Shelters

**Section 1: Preparing now is the best way to protect people experiencing homelessness, homeless service provider staff, and volunteers from COVID-19.**

## PREVENTING SPREAD

- *Promote the practice of everyday preventive actions using health messages and materials developed by your local or state public health departments or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*
- *Have soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, tissues, trash baskets, and disposable facemask (for the ill) on hand.*
- *Identify clients who could be at high risk for complications from COVID-19.*
- *Discuss how you will report cases ahead of time with a contact person at your local health department.*

## PLAN AHEAD

*Plan for higher shelter usage during the outbreak by reaching out to community leaders, local public health departments, and faith-based organizations about places to refer clients if your shelter space is full.*

- *Identify a space that can be used to accommodate clients with mild respiratory symptoms and separate them from others.*
- *Identify a list of key contacts at your local and state health departments*
- *Identify alternate care sites and healthcare facilities available for clients with confirmed COVID-19*
- *Include plans for increased absence caused by employee illness like extending hours, cross-training current employees, or hiring temporary employees.*

## AFTER PERSONS SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19 HAVE BEEN IN THE FACILITY

- *Close off areas used by the ill persons and wait up to 24 hours before beginning disinfection.*
- *Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.*
- *Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas used by the ill persons, especially frequently touched surfaces.*
- *Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process.*
- *Staff should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.*

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**Public Health**  
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